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A working copy of the NEAC Newsletter is a project sponsored by the New England Center of New England Information concerning migration etc. by writing to Marianne Taylor, 62 Rutter Ave. Lexington, Mass. 01772.

TAKEN IT OR LEAVE IT



We have, by actual count several hundred so-called "basic" figures in square dancing. So many of them that one needs 40 to 50 lessons to become a 'graduate' and thrown to the wolves of the square dance world. More and more dancers are becoming disenchanted and are staying home instead of following-through and becoming permanent members of the fascinating hobby. Every year a few more excellent callers and leaders are returning to fundamentals and their fans are rediscovering that square dancing CAN be fun and not a lesson in matjmat-ics!

Everything goes in cycles - so just maybe it is time for a return of the old-time dancing schools of another generation. Along the lines of one of the last - the one directed by Mr & Mrs. Ben Lovett who taught for many years at Henry Ford's studio in Greenfield Village, Michigan.

Certainly something must be done and done quickly or else the whole structure of modern square dancing will topple from sheer unbalanced weight and square dancing will stay a shambles for years to come.

There is one thing that all these hundreds of 'basics' have taught us, and that is, that more is NOT necessarily better!

Sincerely

Ralph



RECREATION VS EDUCATION

by ZIP GARVEY

As you all know the school systems across the country have recently passed through an experimental phase in education basically designed to make learning more fun while at the same time stimulating the interest of our children in hopes of motivating them to learn the basic disciplines required in primary and secondary education. Such programs blended the sometimes difficult concepts of education with "play routines", as it were, in an effort to make these difficult concepts more palatable to our children. Some techniques worked well, others failed.

When the day of accountability arrived, it was evident that our children, generally speaking, were lacking in certain rudimentary skills. This was having a ripple effect all through our educational system. Colleges and universities were having to "simplify" their courses because of reading and writing deficiencies of the students coming their way. Scholastic Aptitude Test averages were dropping nationally.

Educators became aware that it was essential that our educational institutions revert back to the basics of education. Clearly recreation and education, though not mutually exclusive, must be blended with the empha-

sis heavily on education if the process of education was to take place. Back to the three "Rs!"

Now, let's see if we can't make certain observations regarding square dancing. What are we primarily interested in developing through square dancing? Isn't our primary concern RECREATION? It's true that education, as it were, is part of the square dance scheme, but shouldn't the emphasis be primarily on recreation?

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With the advent of definable levels of dancing, I think there is a possibility that the emphasis in our activity has been swinging heavily toward education, sometimes to the detriment of recreation. This may be the single, most serious hindrance of our level's structure. As we watch dancers scurry and clamor to find their respective levels, the emphasis seems to be on "learn, learn, learn" instead of "dance, dance, dance". As we watch clubs climb to the top of the Mainstream structure, all wanting to be "Mainstream Plus 11" clubs, the question naturally arises, where will it end? How high will things go?

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It has occurred to some of us to ask: Were the vague, undefined levels of dancing that existed before our current listings, namely Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced, better suited for our activity than absolute, strict basic-for-basic listings that we now have?

Perhaps our accountability day is at hand.

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While on the drawing board some seven or eight years ago, the levels' system seemed to be the answer to a lot of problems the activity was facing regarding standardized levels of dancing nation-wide, especially at festivals and other large events. And it certainly has accomplished this goal along with stemming the tide

of experimental basics that inundated the square dance scene some four or five years ago.

But what are some of the less attractive side effects of the level systems?

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Clubs rushed to become "Plus 11" type clubs. This certainly was their prerogative if they so desired. But in doing so, clubs may have pushed themselves beyond the level that newer dancers could reasonably expect to achieve in 40 weeks' time, making the transition from class to club very precarious and perhaps fueling the drop-out problem.

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Dancers who successfully accomplished the transition became attuned to a high-level, accelerated learning process and sought to continue this process as possible. They became more readily disenchanted with club level dancing and sought an accelerated learning series outside their club. This feverish desire to learn more, along with their waning from the club scene, meant that they weren't around long enough to make their single, most important contribution to the activity, that of bringing in new dancers.

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The recreational aspects of our activity were de-emphasized over the learning in educational aspects. Callers began to alter their basic philosophies somewhat, measuring peoples' dancing ability, as well as their own calling ability, against an abstract list of basics instead of merely providing people with an evening's entertainment. This loss of perspective as it existed did the caller more harm than the activity. And certainly it did not exist industry-wide. Some callers never lost their perspective and their clubs flourished accordingly.

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Callers who were known for their ability do draw large crowds and generate considerable excitement in a floor were somewhat handicapped in that some of their choreographical latitude was diminished. Most of the good ones adjusted readily to this. Some didn't. But why should any caller, especially one who is proven to be successful by popular demand, have to relinquish any of the tools of his trade? The peer pressure was incredible!

USING A TOOL CORRECTLY

I hope the tone of this message will not be misconstrued. The listing of identifiable levels of dancing has done much good for our activity. It has been a major stabilizing factor that has created organization where once chaos existed. It has increased the overall quality of the activity and generated much enthusiasm and continued participation in the activity of the square dance public in general. When used as it was originally designated, as a tool to enhance square dancing in general, the level system is indispensable.

((-))

But we must always remember that in using any tool, the tool should never become more important than the job the tool is to be used for. Levels of dancing should never take precedence over the basic objective of square dancing - that of recreation and sociability. Let's not sacrifice square dancing - the greatest of all recreations - for the sake of education.

(from SQUARE DANCING February, 1981)



TRADITIONAL DANCE & MUSIC IN THE MONADDOCK REGION



by RALPH PAGE

From a talk given October 16, 1980 at Keene State College as a part of their Continuing Education Program in a seven week series entitled "HISTORIC KEENE".

Part 3

In the pages of three of the weekly journals of Cheshire County during the years 1870-80 90's you will find hundreds of prosaic items pertaining to dancing from town correspondents. Such as these from the COLD RIVER JOURNAL (Alstead) L Marlow, January 3, 1885. The New Year's ball at the Forest House notwithstanding the bad traveling, was a complete success. There were forty couples, and was pronounced the best party of the season. The music was by the 2nd Regiment Orchestra of Keene, and was first class in every respect, many remarking that it was the best they ever heard in that hall.

Walpole: January 12, 1890. Beedle's orchestra of twelve pieces will give a concert and ball in the town hall Thursday evening, January 19. Concert from 8 to 9:30, dancing from 9:30 to 2. Concert tickets 25¢, admission to concert and ball \$1.00 per couple. Supper will be served in the lower hall by the Grange at 35¢ per plate.

Or these earlier ones from the NEW HAMPSHIRE SENTINEL (Keene): Unionville, January 19, 1874: There is to

be a calico ball at Union Hall on Friday evening of this week at which the ladies are expected to appear in calico dresses. Music will be furnished by the Strauss Orchestra, five pieces. A general invitation is extended.

Winchester. December 24, 1874: It is very gratifying to learn that the assembly dances, held once in two weeks at the town hall, are conducted with commendable decorum, and are exercising a refining influence upon the younger ladies and gentlemen who attend them. The next one will be on Friday evening, Jan. 1st.

III O III

West Swansea. January 21, 1875: There is to be a ball at Wilson's Hall in West Swansea tomorrow (Thursday) evening. Music by Keene Quadrille band. A special train leaves Keene at 7 o'clock to accommodate those willing to attend from this city.

III O III

Or these from THE CHESHIRE REPUBLICAN (Keene). Local Affairs. December 15, 1876: The first of the course of "Old Line" Assemblies, will take place this (Friday) night at Cheshire Hall. Music, Keene Quadrille Band, C. P. Holton, prompter. Dancing 8 until 1.

III O III

Marlborough. February 5, 1881: An old fashioned ball will be held at the town hall next Thursday evening. Old style dancers and dances will be the order of the evening. A turkey supper will be served at the Converse House. Music, Goddard's orchestra of Gardner, Mass.

III O III

Fitzwilliam. March 11, 1882: The warrant for town meeting is out and is as long as the proverbial moral law, having twenty-four articles, some, which no doubt will be passed quicker than they will be read. In the evening will be the annual town meeting ball with supper at Metcalf's.

Again from Fitzwilliam. January 20, 1883: W.W. Holman's dancing school is now half through and will finish with a course of six assemblies.

III O III

Munsonville, March 5, 1886: The old folks are to have a dance at Union hall the 4th; music by Barrett's orchestra, five pieces. Supper will be provided at the house of James Wilson and Mrs. Addie Barrows, and all who have partaken of a supper got up by her well know that they always get their money's worth.

As stated before, you will find hundreds of similar items in the pages of the County Journals of the day. However interesting they may be to the researcher few of them would have been remembered too long by the ordinary reader. The following items, or the manner of writing about them, would be recalled for years afterward.



From THE COLD RIVER JOURNAL, February 6, 1885, Alstead: The Universalist festival, appointed for last week Wednesday evening was postponed on account of the terrible storm, to Friday evening. A good evening, a good attendance, and good success rewarded them. The Second Regiment Band Orchestra of Keene, won many commendations by their excellent music. A supplementary festival was held this (Tuesday) evening, which was but a dance and supper. Music by Huntce's orchestra of Bel lows Falls. They play finely and a pleasant cheap dance was had. Cheap because the bills were low. The "high-toned" sometimes called "Codfish aristocracy" were not there. The common folks - the laborers, the "muscle" of society, were there - and they all had a good time. The total proceeds of both nights were a trifle less than \$200.

III O III

West Gilsum. May 22, 1885: May 16th there was a kitchen dance at George Carpenter's. Music by Pratt's and West Gilsum orchestra, making an orchestra of nine pieces. All had a very enjoyable time. Landlord Burge furnished supper.

E O E

Alstead. November 16, 1899: Mr. C.F. Colton, proprietor of the Alstead Hotel, will give a grand Thanksgiving ball on Thursday evening, Nov. 29. Maynard and Wheelers orchestra for music. J.F. Dickey and C.W. Pierce floor managers. Full bill \$2.25. Judging from Mr. Colton's universal popularity with every one, whether the towns people or the travelling public, this will be one of the old-time Thanksgiving dances for which the Humphrey House was for years so famous. We are safe in guaranteeing that nothing will be omitted on Mr. Colton's part that can add to the enjoyment of the guests and that none but civil and courteous persons will be tolerated on the premises. We predict a large crowd and a good time.



The next week's edition of THE COLD RIVER JOURNAL carried this item from Marlow: The "Back Log Club", an association of young people and being nearly equally divided in their political opinion, made an agreement - before election that if Cleveland won, the republicans should pay for a turkey supper for the club, and if Harrison was elected, the democrats were to pay. Harrison proved to be the winning man, and the supper came off on Saturday evening of last week at the residence of Mr. Alonzo Matthewson and was an elegant affair. A few invited guests besides the club members were present, making a company of about thirty. Supper was served at 8:30 and consisted of the following menu: Roast veal, roast duck, chicken pie, roast turkey, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, squash, turnips, wheat bread, brown

bread, Indian pudding, pumpkin pie, apple, cream pie, Cleveland cake, Harrison cake, doughnuts, cheese, fruit, coffee, iced tea. Politics were entirely forgotten, especially during the supper. After supper a social dance was enjoyed by all who wished. At 11:30 the company dispersed, having had a most enjoyable time as nothing had occurred to mar the festivities.

Walpole. March 23, 1899: A large number were in attendance at the reception given Monday evening at the Hastings Memorial parish house, by the Ladies Sewing Society to Mrs. Mary H. Hastings, in honor of her birthday which occurred the previous day.

The double parlors and entrance hall presented a scene of beauty, a profusion of potted plants and cut flowers, including fragrant carnations and smilax, being used in the decoration. An orchestra was stationed on the landing in the entrance hall during the early part of the evening, and later played for dancing, which ended the evening's enjoyment.



In the CHESHIRE REPUBLICAN for January 21, 1882 is a long account of a sleighing party to Marlow, headed simply "ON RUNNERS": The sleighing party of young people that went to Marlow, last Friday afternoon, was a very novel and brilliant affair, representing as it did the past and present styles of dress and mode of conveyance, the getting up of which not only called into use some very choice and well preserved relics of fifty and one hundred years ago, but the finest turnouts in our city.

E O E

Misses Rugg and Wright and Mr. W.S. Hale, and Dr. B.C. Russell in modern costume, occupied a landau sleigh, drawn by four-in-hand, made up of a very fine pair of blood bay horses owned by Hon. S.W. Hale, and led by a pair of evenly matched dark brown ponies, owned by his son, a member of the party. The team was driven by Fred

A Towne, the family coachman, and the skillful manner with which he manipulated the ribbons and sounded his English post-horn, showed him an artist. The costumes of the party that followed, as well as their sleighs and bells, attracted much attention and comment. Miss Pittsinger wore a scarlet pelarine, fox fur victorine with muff to match, 104 years old, and pumpkin hood; Mr. W.R. Porter, a fur coat and very elegant beaver hat; Miss Sherman, a blue silk pumpkin hood lined with cherry satin and a black cassock; Mr. W.C. Stone, a fur coat of American bison and black bell-crowned beaver hat. This party occupied Warren's pung, drawn by a trotter with running mate, on which sleigh bells distinctly heard a mile away. Miss Metcalf wore a fitch victorine and silk pumpkin hood; Mr. C.H. Clark a dark ulster and Brother Jonathan hat. The body of their box sleigh was painted emerald green, and the running part a bright yellow. A fine bay horse wearing a string of neck bells completed the outfit. Miss Alexander was adorned with dark blue shawl with palm leaf figures, and a Florence straw poke bonnet; a handbox over fifty years old, made by one Hannah Davis, was taken along, in which to keep the bonnet when not in use; Mr. F.W. French appeared in dress parade, in George Pratt's ulster, a Horace Greeley hat and a red, white and blue muffler, three yards in length. This couple were merry in the old Stewart sleigh drawn by a spirited horse, with strings of melodious bells. Miss Fattie Locke looked charming in a lovely black silk velvet bonnet, purchased in New York, twenty-five years ago; her hands were hid in a fitch muff, much admired when in style, measuring fourteen inches in length and thirty-six in circumference; a victorine to match the muff and a dark green pelarine completed her wraps; Mr. L.E. Mason wore green goggles and sat under a straight crowned silk hat, strictly stove pipe in style and decidedly "too utter" for the present generation to appreciate. The gentleman may have worn a splendid fur overcoat of a blue ulster borrowed from a returned soldier but we cannot swear about anything except the hat; it was such a horror com-



ered with that city bonnet. Miss Fairbrother was arrayed in black coat, fur victorine and black silk quilted bonnet, trimmed with yellow ribbons and feathers; Mr. F. C. Sturtevant was equipped in a fur coat and an ancient beaver hat worn as if in defiance of the wind or low branches, increased his stern appearance. A green box sleigh similar to others in the train contained this pair of pilgrims, who, to guard against loss had their carpet-bag strapped to the forward part of the conveyance. Miss Nellie Rowell appeared in white shawl with palm leaf figures, and green plaid gumpkin hood; a handbox covered with gorgeous patch was taken along for baggage and occupied a prominent position; Mr. C. E. Cooper, was conspicuous with a Horace Greeley hat, red bandana muffler and large old fashioned spectacles.



III

Miss Fogg was very becomingly attired in heavy dark cloak, fitch victorine and black velvet bonnet with figured lace veil; Mr. F. S. Sylvester drove in a heavy beaver overcoat and tall, light kersey hat with narrow sleigh-band. He had a fine horse, and a sleigh more than three times his age. Miss Howland and Mr. Gilmore ventured to don antiquated head gear when half-way on the trip. Miss Dorr and Mr. F. H. Wright occupied an old green sleigh, owned by Frank W. Nims, and drawn by beautiful span. Miss Chamberlain and Mr. F. B. Hart, part of the party, with one of the best oxen in town, and Miss Graves and Mr. C. L. Barrett with a fine single turnout were also among the number.

III

On the arrival of the party at the Forest House, Marlow, they were cordially received by the popular landlord "Colonel" Petts. The Marlow Quadrille band were soon engaged and dancing was commenced in the spacious hall adjoining the house, the spring floor of which was a novelty to many. A hot turkey supper was served early in the evening, after which dancing was re-

sumed and continued until a late hour, when the party returned home, arriving very early. The drive home was a bitter cold one, 26 degrees below zero, and one or two of the party had their ears slightly frozen, but all express themselves highly gratified with the ride, dancing, and hospitable manner in which they were entertained by the "Colonel".

The following week the Gilsom correspondent complained about the noise the group made while driving through that village. He seemed particularly bitter against the "English Post Horn", claiming that it could be heard five miles away. I'll bet that every dog for miles around joined in the cacophony of sounds too, because they don't approve of unfamiliar sound in the middle of a winter's night!



Square dance callers, or prompters, as they were called in those days were not forgotten by the county correspondents as will be noted from the following three items from THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SENTINEL. The first from Welpole in the January 15th, 1874 edition. Last Thursday the ladies of the Unitarian society enjoyed a festival more than they anticipated. The weather was stormy, traveling muddy, and the social atmosphere was in full accord with the outer elements - blue, black, dismal and uncomfortable all day; despite everything the hall was well filled. Dancing began late and ended later. The Brattleboro quadrille band gave us good music. Mr. Hines is a good prompter, enunciates well and has a strong voice - a quadrille band that gives good music with a poor prompter fails to give satisfaction. Some prompters ought to attend a school of elocution! Those that don't dance need not read this! Those that

do will appreciate it.

A rebuttal was voiced in the column from Unionville two weeks later. The next assembly at Valley Hall in Unionville, will be held Friday evening, Jan. 30th. Music by the Strauss Orchestra. We notice that your Walpole correspondent speaks very highly of Mr. Hines as a prompter. Without disparagement to that gentleman, we wish to say that we have a prompter who, we think, cannot be beaten; and being assisted by some of the best musical talent we think our band can give as good satisfaction as an in the country.

E O E

In the same issue we read: There was a grand Masonic ball at Chester, Vt. on the 15th inst. and a correspondent of the Bellows Falls "TIMES" thus speaks of the Keene Quadrille Band, which furnished music for the occasion: "There is no better ball music within one hundred miles of here. The calling, or rather, prompting, was clear and distinct, the selections unusually fine."



Turning now to the CHESHIRE REPUBLICAN we read from their South Stoddard correspondent this item for March 23, 1874: Participants in the festivities of the opening assembly of Mr. O.H. Harding at his newly furnished hotel on the evening of the 20th. inform us that it was a brilliant and successful affair. Had "old probabilities" allowed better roads and less mud, the company would have been more numerous, but as it was upwards of forty couples formed on the floor of the hall and all went merry as a marriage bell, to the excellent music furnished by the West Sullivan Quintette Band, which old ballroom habitués say equals any band they ever danced after in Cheshire County. The party dispersed in the 'wee sma' hours', all declaring it a most enjoyable time.

In the March 1st edition we read this from Ashuelot: During the past season there was built in the school district, in what is called Lower Ashuelot, a large and well arranged school house, consisting of two school rooms upon the first floor, and over these a spacious and neatly furnished hall, easy of access, the completion and furnishing of which is largely due to the liberal, private contribution of Capt. Ansel Dickinson. On Friday evening last, by previous invitation, the Capt. gave an entertainment at the hall, to many of his numerous friends from all parts of the town. He furnished for them an elegant turkey supper, which for elegance and splendor, is scarcely surpassed. The exercises consisted mainly in what most people take pleasure in - dancing, to the superior music from Slate's Band, relieved at times by the music of the "old line", consisting of two violins and a clarinet, all furnished by Capt. Dickinson. There were present over fifty couples, and when the time came to commence, the captain and his wife led the first figure. He seemed the genius of the place and conducted everything with military precision. All was orderly, active and sprightly, and so well did the company enjoy the occasion, they seemed reluctant to go away. Whatever he undertakes, whether in the way of business or pleasure, in the entertainment or relief of his friends, the Captain has the faculty of doing it successfully and with pleasure.



III

Every Leap Year saw many Leap Year Balls in all parts of the county. The ladies paid all the bills, which included the hiring of the hall, engaging the orchestra, calling for the gentlemen in their carriages, etc. I rather like that idea, don't you gentlemen?



These Leap Year Balls could be, and were, held at any time of any Leap Year, though for the most part they were confined to the month of February, more particularly on the 29th of February, provided that day did not fall on a Sunday. Again, from the pages of THE CHESHIRE REPUBLICAN, in the edition dated February 7th, 1880, an item from West Swanzy tells us: Quadrille parties are taking the lead here among the amusements of the day. West Swanzy Band, with F.W. Foster leader, furnish music for these occasions. They played at Ashuelot recently, at a large ball which was managed by the ladies. It appears that they became aware that it is leap year, and they seized this as their golden opportunity; and we are informed that their gallantry on this occasion surpassed that usually exhibited by gentlemen. If these ladies select such music as our band, it shows that they know where to find that which is good.

III

Another item from Finsdale a couple of weeks later: The Ladies of the Universalist Society held their annual festival and dance on Wednesday and Thursday evenings of last week. Before eleven o'clock the hall was cleared for the dance. It being Leap Year, the ladies did the honors and selected their partners, Mrs. P.A. Roberts, Miss Nettle Stearns, Miss Lottie Bowker and Miss Florentina Cooper were the floor managers, and there certainly never was a more quiet, decorous dancing party. The most audacious youngster did not dare to execute "the double shuffle", even to the entrancing strains of Pinafore by the orchestra. Four hours of dancing seemed to satisfy the most enthusiastic devotees of this amusement, and all went home with the consciousness of having enjoyed a pleasant entertainment. It should be added in closing, that the music by Slate's Orchestra of Winchester was the subject of much favorable comment and praise. The conductor, Mr. Charles Slate, who is a son of the late Obed Slate, has made orchestral music a profession, and his orchestra, which numbers among its members P.S. Batchelder, the celebrated violinist, ranks deservedly high in this part of

This next item is of especial interest to me because my mother was there. It was the first public ball she attended so, of course, she remembered it well. She went with her father, Isaac Dunn, and her brother Wallace, with whom she danced many times during the evening. Uncle Wallace used to say that "he always like to dance with Laurie because she never danced through a figger - she floated through it." In other words, she was light on her feet. I have heard mother say many times, how proud she was to dance Patinella with her father at this particular ball. Patinella was THE showcase dance of the era for all the best dancers, and Grandfather Dunn was considered one of the best in the region.

III

Christopher Robb was a lumber baron operating out of Stoddard and Washington centering in what was then known as Cherry Valley, a part of Stoddard that is now inundated by the waters of one of the Public Service Company's dams. Here is the item in question: South Stoddard, October 23, 1880: Christopher Robb of this place, whose woodenware shops were destroyed by fire last spring, has replaced them with a fine new set of buildings. The main building is 40x60 and all 30x78 feet, both two stories high. They were dedicated on Friday evening, October 15th by a social dance. Mr. Robb inviting his many friends to partake of his well known hospitality. About two hundred ladies and gentlemen were present. The East Sullivan Quadrille Band of five pieces furnished music for dancing in the upper story of the mill, which was enjoyed until midnight, when supper was announced and all repaired to the lower level of the mill where a bountiful supply of refreshments were provided. Three long tables were very tastefully arranged the entire length of the hall, and the large company were soon seated, enjoying the repast. The sides of the dining room were hung with pictures and trimmed with evergreen, and at the farther end, and in large letters was the word -



"WELCOME", presenting a very pleasant scene. After supper dancing was resumed and continued until early morning. All united in saying it was one of the pleasantest gatherings they had ever attended, and many were the kind wishes the host received from all, wishing him success. A number were present from Nashua, Milford, Keene and other places. Mr. Robb is one of our most enterprising business men and he has done much for the town and we hope he will be prospered in his undertaking.

- to be continued -

SUMMER DANCE CAMPS

Maine Folk Dance Camps: Session A; June 27-July 3; B: July 4-10; C: July 11-17; D: July 18-24; E: July 25-31; F: Aug. 1-7; G: Aug. 8-14; H: Aug. 15-21; I: Aug. 22-28; J: Aug. 29-Sept. 4; Labor Day Weekend: Sept 4-7. Write: Maine Folk Dance Camp, Box 100, Bridgton, Me. 04009.

July 12-18. Adirondack & French-Canadian Music & Dance Week. Contact: Dr. Murray Heller, Center for Adirondack Studies, North Country Community College, Saranac Lake, N.Y. 12983.

July 18-25 New Camp. At Frostburg State College, Frostburg, Md. Contact: John Owen, 9920 Moccasin Trail, Wexford, Pa. 15090, or Barbara Harding, Box 236, Herndon, Va. 22070.

Pinewoods Camp. Early Music Week, July 18-25; American Dance & Music Week, Aug. 1-8; Family Week, Aug. 8-15; English Dance Week, Aug. 12-22; English & American Dance Week, Aug. 22-29. Contact: Country Dance & Song Society, 505 8th Ave. New York, N.Y. 10018.

Annual Fall Folk & Square Dance Camp, Sept. 8-13. The Inn at East Hill Farm, Troy, N.H. Contact: Ada Page, 117 Washington St. Keene, N.H. 03431

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July 26-August 8, Polish Dances: Ada & Jas Dzienawoski, Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Write: Jack McKay, Director, 227 Lawton, San Francisco, Calif. 94122

Roberson Folk Dancers 16th Annual Fall Weekend at Okauchee Lake, Deposit, N.Y. Oct. 2-4. Contact: Lila Boyd, Star Rte. 1, Box 9, Oswego, N.Y. 13827.

Rocky Mountain Dance Roundup, July 6-12. Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby, Colorado. Contact: Don Armstrong, 511 Wagon Rut Loop, South, New Port Richey, Fla. 33533.

26th Annual Nova Scotia Dance Camp at College Ste Anne Aug. 15-22. Contact: Gordon Arthur, c/c Black Point Post Office, Halifax County, N.S. B0J 1B0.

Fifth Annual Heritage Arts Week "Appalachian Calibration" at Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky. June 21-26.

Folk Dance & Music Week, June 14-20. Led by Genevieve Shimer. Sponsored by the John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, N.C. 28902.

The Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society announce two sessions at Pinewoods: July 10-13; & July 13-18. Write: Pinewoods, P.O. Box 973, Back Bay Annex, Boston, Mass. 02117.

The York County Scottish Country Dancers invite you to a "Down East Fling", Town Hall, Kennebunk, Maine, 8 p.m. Saturday, June 27th, 1981. Iain Goddard, M.C. Music by The White Cockage. Admission \$3.00.

Folk Dance Leadership Council of Chicago announces its June Camp, 1981, for June 26-28 at The DeKoven Foundation in Racine, Wis. with guest instructor Tom Bosigian, Arranian Dances. Contact: Addie Broosen, 5412 Sheridan Rd. Chicago, Ill. 60640.

43rd National Folk Festival will be held August 7-9 at Wolf Trap Farm Park, in Vienna, Va. just outside Washington, D.C.



AS TRUE TODAY AS YESTERDAY

The following excerpts are from "THE AMERICAN PROMPTER AND GUIDE TO ETTIQUETTE", compiled by E.H. Kopp and published by The John Church Company, 1896. The advice and admonitions to callers found in the book are still good today.

The Prompter - page 9

"At the present time there are very few dancers so thoroughly versed in all the figures as to be able to perform them correctly without prompting, so a prompter becomes necessary.

"Many prompters do not realize the importance of good-calling. A good prompter is of as much importance as fine music in making the quadrille a success. Use no more words than are necessary to have the call understood.

"Call in a natural voice, and pronounce each syllable slowly and distinctly.

"Never strain the voice by calling too loud.

"Study the calls thoroughly before attempting to use them in public.

"Familiarize yourself with the music to which you

to call.

"Never call at the wrong place to please dancers who do not dance correctly.

"Never allow loud speaking or noise of any kind during a quadrille; stop the music and request attention.

"Always signal the musicians when you wish them to stop playing.

"In large gatherings do not call complicated figures. Let the figures be simple, and be careful to call the same figures for the sides that are called for the heads, as those who are not much acquainted with quadrilles usually take the sides, that they may see the heads execute the figure before being called upon to do the same.

"Conform your figures to the customs of those for whom you are prompting.

232

"Never attempt to call a figure the correctness of which, or its adaptability to the music is uncertain. Very often prompters, not being familiar with the music, call the same figure when there are 24 or 32 measures of music, consequently the music and calls do not correspond.

"Prompters should familiarize themselves with the music to which the quadrille is to be danced; it is then a simple matter to choose figures adapted to the music. Most quadrilles contain the same number of measures, but not all; therefore it is advisable to examine the music before deciding what figures to use. Nothing causes more dissatisfaction in a ballroom than lack of agreement between the music and figures of a quadrille.

"Many figures have a coda (finish); usually Nos. 1 3 and 5, consisting of 8 measures after the first 16

measures. When this is the case, the prompter, to prevent the music from ending at the wrong place, must give the musicians a signal before the beginning of the last 8 measures of calls (that is, at the end of the fourth strain) to play the coda.

"This is the only correct strain to finish with in that figure. In case, however, he neglects to give the signal for the coda, he must call 16 measures more.

"Prompters must be careful to give the calls two measures before the beginning of the following strain, so that the figure to be executed may commence with the new strain.

"The prompter should be familiar with the generally accepted rules of ballroom etiquette, as he is often called upon to decide questions involving the rules."



And I can't resist including the following bits of advice from the next chapter. They are some of the rules you learned in the old-time dancing schools. Believe me, I am NOT trying to convince or impress anyone! I merely found them amusing and interesting.

ETIQUETTE FOR THE BALLROOM

"The first duty of a gentleman after entering the ballroom with his partner is to procure a program for her and to introduce to her his friends.

"A gentleman should invariably dance the first number on the program with the lady whom he escorts, or at least offer to do so, and see that she is provided with a partner whenever she wishes to dance.

"Always remember that ladies are to be cared for first, and are entitled in all cases to your courtesy and protection.

"Should a lady desire to leave before the close of the reception or ball, her escort should cancel her engagements and also his own.

"A gentleman should not ask a lady to dance with him without first being introduced to her.

"If a gentleman wishes to dance with a lady with whom he is not acquainted, let him politely ask the master of ceremonies for an introduction.

"In asking a lady to dance, be sure she accepts, then allow her to rise before offering your arm.

"If a gentleman asks a lady to dance with him and receives a polite refusal, let him not exhibit signs of dissatisfaction if he sees her dancing with another, for in these matters ladies need not explain.

III

"When the dance is finished the gentleman offers his right arm and escorts his partner to her seat, making a bow and thanking her for the pleasure she has conferred upon him.

"It is the duty of a gentleman holding a place in a quadrille set to have his partner with him, otherwise he forfeits his place.

"Sets should be formed with as little confusion as possible.

"Running to obtain a position should be carefully avoided.

"The habit of leaving one set to enter another can not be too severely censured, and should not be done unless absolutely necessary, and never without an apology to those remaining in the set.

III

"Rather than dispute as to the right to the occupancy of a place, quietly withdraw from the set.

"Do not be guilty of practical jokes in a ballroom.

"Whistling, stamping of the feet, throwing things about the room, or profanity, are glaring vulgarities.

"It is very impolite to gallop around or inside of other sets while a quadrille is being danced.

"When dancing a quadrille, let your arms hang easily, and avoid any display of agility or knowledge of fancy steps.

"In a march a gentleman should never have two ladies, as it destroys the proper execution of different movements. The right arm is invariably given to the lady.

"A lady should never promenade in the ballroom alone, and not enter it unaccompanied.

"It is a gentleman's province to lead, and the ladies to follow.

"The master of ceremonies is privileged to ask any lady or gentleman whether they wish to dance, make himself known, and procure partners for them if they so desire.

"Always recognize the lady or gentleman who is director of ceremonies with becoming politeness.

"When there is no program, engagements should not be made until the dance is announced.

"The march or walking step is the only correct quadrille step.

"In dancing quadrilles, the time is marked by steps or counts, two steps being taken to each measure of music.

THANKS TO:

Milla Boyd - Old-time dance music
 Martin Marlman - cigars
 Hiroyuki Okama - Folk Dance of Japan
 Donna Hinds - The Grumbling Old Woman
 Sylvia Miskoe - The B^d Book of Music
 Bob McQuillen - LP "Applejack with Bob Mc-
 Quillen"
 Don Armstrong - 45 rpm "Callison Hall Jig"
 Norma Selvi - books
 Olga Kulbitsky - back issues of the Junket
 Bernie Rappaport - 2 march lps
 Donna Hinds - French-Canadian tunes
 George Hodgson - LP "Let There Be Music" #2

MARRIED: April 18, 1981 Jack Hamilton & Patricia Pettifer, in St. Dunstan's Church, West Peckham, Kent, England.

DIED: April 14, 1981 - Elward Moose

HUNGARY

The Hungarian Folklore Museum was opened February 22, at 217 3rd St. Passaic, N.J., by the Hungarian community to preserve the cultural heritage of the more than one hundred year-old presence of Hungarians in the greater metropolitan area.

The John C. Campbell Folk School presents a Dance Week, June 14-20, 1981 in Brasstown, N.C. Classes in English, & Danish Country Dances, Appalachian Squares, Big Set, Singing Games, Clogging, Morris & Sword.

SINCE

It takes far too many tomcrows before we begin to remember.

So far, the country's lowered standard of living hasn't made it any easier to make dinner reservations for Saturday night.

CONTRA DANCE

GON'T A ROVIN'

Dance & music both by Ralph Page

Couples 1 - 3 - 5 etc. active. Do NOT cross over

Active couples balance partner

Turn by right hand $1\frac{1}{2}$ around

Go below one couple (on opposite side)

Take that person for a half promenade

Half right and left to place

Left hand star with couple below

Right hand star with couple above

All join hands, in lines go forward and back

Actives up center with partner, to east off on original side.

G
 1
 2
 D.S.

FOR SALE

A Time To Dance - \$6.95

by Richard Nevell

The Line Dance Manual - \$5.00

by Grant Longley

Solo Dance Manual - \$5.00

by Grant Longley

The Country Dance Book - \$5.00

by Beth Tolman & Ralph Page

Modern Contra Dances - \$3.00

by Herbie Gaudreau

Heritage Dances Of Early America - \$5.50

by Ralph Page

Twenty Four Early American Dances - \$4.50

by James Morrison

Fiddle Tunes of Old Maroon - \$4.50

by Sylvia Migkae & Justine Paul

The Ralph Page Book Of Contra Dances - \$2.40

by Ralph Page

Square Dances From A Yankee Caller's Clipboard - \$5.00

by Louise Winston & Red Linnell

A Choice Selection of American Country Dances Of the
Revolutionary Era - \$3.00 - by Keller & Sweet

Any of the above material postpaid from:

Ralph Page

117 Washington St.

Keene, N.H. 03431

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at THE INN at EAST HILL FARM, TROY, N.H. September 8th
(supper) thru noon meal Sunday, September 13th, 1981

COST: \$160.00 per person full time. This includes N.H.
room & meal tax; 3 meals a day; plus snacks, sport fa-
cilities; dance instruction & evening parties.

A deposit of \$20.00 per person is required when registra-
ting to assure you space.

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ROGER WHYNOT - Squares
GEORGE FOGG - English Country
RALPH PAGE - Contras & Lancers
TONY SALATAN - Folk Songs

November 6-8, 1981

At THE INN at EAST HILL FARM, TROY, N.H.

Cost: \$72.50 per person. SQUARE DANCE WEEKEND starts with supper Friday, November 6th, and closes with noon meal Sunday, November 8th, 1981. Part-time guests accommodated & cost pro-rated. Please send \$10.00 per person advance registration to assure you space.

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CONTRA DANCE

APRIL'S HORNPIPE

An original contra by Ralph Page. I thought I'd written the music too, but no, it's an old, old tune called The Rhine Hornpipe.

Couples 1 - 4 - 7 - etc active. Cross over before dance starts.

Actives allemande left the one below - once around and a little more so

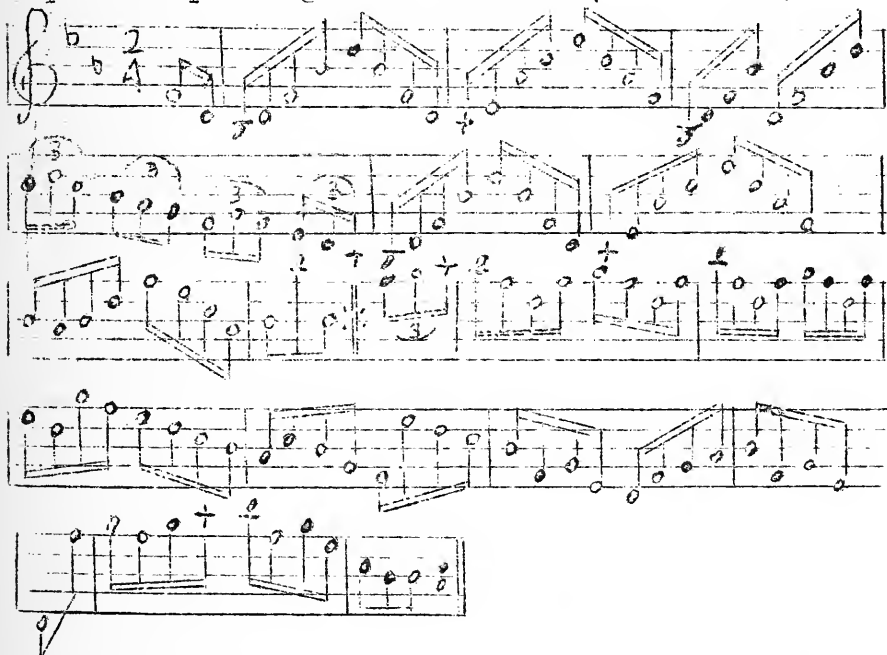
Do si do the next below (original #3)

Face the middle, join hands, six hands once around

Actives left hand star with couple below

Come up to swing the one above (original #2)

Top two couples right and left four (over & back)



SQUARE DANCE

GRAND OLD FLAG

Music: "Grand Old Flag" Hi-Hat 458

Use any conventional intro, middle break, & ending.

Figure:

Head two couples lead right and circle the floor
floor

Head gents break, make a line, lines of four
Go up and back, two ladies across the track
Turn 'em (a quarter move) and chain 'em down
the line

Turn (a little bit more) chain straight across
the floor

Turn again, face the line, the ladies chain
Turn, then take your corner, promenade
Keep your eye on that grand old flag.

From Bob Howell's "Easy Level Page" American Square Dance, February, 1977. Bob writes: "This one is borrowed from Stan Burdick's 'Easy Sing-Along Calls'. Stan Burdick is owner-publisher of American Square Dance.

XXXX

The Canadian Heritage Festival will be held in Vancouver, B.C. July 31 - August 2. A delegation from each province has been invited to participate.

XXXX

Death and taxes may be the only certainties in life, but nowhere is it written that we have to tax ourselves to death.

BOOK & RECORD

REVIEWS



FOLK DANCE OF JAPAN by Hiroyuki Ikema. 131 pp. Preface. Photographs. Dance Descriptions. National Recreation Association of Japan. Tokyo, 1981.

This is an excellent introduction to the folk dances of Japan. It is not a definitive history; it is not intended to be. Mr. Ikema has assembled here a very fine collection of short articles pertaining to many facets of Japanese folk dancing. They all add up to the wish to learn more and more about the historic dances of his country. Descriptions for 32 Japanese Folk Dances are included showing the rich and varied cultures of their dances. To the serious student of the dance this book is a MUST. Buy it.

THE GRUMBLING OLD WOMAN. A compilation of 62 contra dance tunes edited by Donna Kinds. \$7.00. Hand to Mouth Music. P.O. Box A. Bedford, Mass. 01730.

Now there's a fine name for a book of tunes! It catches your fancy right off and you pick it up and then can't lay it down again for here is a book of useable contra dance music. The majority are of Canadian origin - and what's wrong with that? Every fiddler worth his/her salt will want and should have this fine collection of tunes. They will be interested in the bowings suggested, and I'm sure will make up some of their own. Two dancer tunes are here too: "Trial by Jury" and "Patience", along with Tony Parke's suggested figures for the same. A most valuable book. Recommended.

THE B^b BOOK. By Sylvia Miskoe and J.M. Graetz. A Transcription of Dance Tunes for B^b Instruments. Vol. 1.

Clarinets and cornets were once valuable members of New England square dance orchestras. There was music readily available for them on sale at all respectable music stores. Try to find them now! At last here is a book of tunes written and transcribed for both instruments. Best of all, the tunes are those most frequently requested by callers. The time is right for a book of this type, and I hope Sylvia and "Shag" sell a million of them. No price is given, but write: Sylvia Miskoe, 102 Little Pond Road, Concord, N.H. 03301 for the information. Highly recommended.

MARSHALL'S SCOTTISH MELODIES, AIRS, STRATHSPRYS, REELS, JIG, etc. for the Violin. Fiddlecase Books. Obtainable from Jack Parren, Harrisville, N.H. 03450. \$5.00

An excellent compilation of some 150 original Scottish dance tunes by one of the great masters of Scottish music. Every devotee of the dance music of Scotland and/or fiddle music should buy it. Recommended.

HAMILTON HALL JIG: An original dance by Don Armstrong, to a medley of tunes by Stan Hamilton & His Flying Scotmen. It seems to me that this is one of the best records yet produced by the Lloyd Shaw Foundation, Inc. No reason why you can't use the instrumental side for a contra of your choice. Recommended.

BACKWOODS FIDDLE TUNES by Andy DeJarlis and His Early Settlers. London EBX 4218. Obtainable from Alcazar, RD2 Box 82, Waterbury, Vt. 05676.

A good collection of 10 tunes played by the late DeJarlis. Unfortunately, every tune ends on the 16th measure making it unusable for a contra dance unless you have the facilities for "dubbing" the tunes for your use.

APPLEJACK WITH BOB McQUILLEN, Contra Dance Music - New England Style. Green Linnet Records, New Canaan, Conn.

The first time I listened to this LP, an old question stirred anew: "What makes a tune great?" After the fifteenth-or-so-but-who's-counting time through the album, I knew the answer: "A great tune is one that gets better every time you listen to it."

Five of the 16 bands are long enough for a contra; others are for listening - and delightful listening they are! As stated, not all the tunes are played long enough for a dance; I seriously doubt if they were intended so. However, every lover of traditional style New England dance music should purchase this album, if only to listen to "Woodland Dream" and "Larry's Waltz", both hauntingly lovely tunes.

Unless uplifting music brings you down, you will enjoy this album whether you are a contra dancer or you never touch the stuff. Highly recommended.

"Rise up early to face the day,"
I give the young this warning,
Forgetting that I've wrecked the days
By rising in the morning.

Advice is something a man gives when he's too old to set a bad example.

If the shoe fits it will be the wrong style.

Some men have a reputation for truthfulness because they can't think fast enough.

Believing all you hear is matched only by telling all you know.



IT'S FUN TO HUNT

The *Cheshire Republican* was a weekly newspaper published in Keene for Cheshire County readers for 85 years; Until 1914 in fact. Here are some dance items extracted from early issues, starting with this one in the October 6th, 1841 paper:

The *Salem Advertiser* says that the patriotism of the Whigs "could dance a jig on the point of a cambric needle, and swing six without falling off!"

National News 4/20/59: A dancing master was taken up at Natchez lately, for robbing a new boarder. He said he commenced by cheating a printer, and after that everything rascally came easy to him.

1/12/67 Festivities:- There will be an assembly at Ira Gustine's Hotel in Swansey Factory, on Thursday evening January 17th. Tickets for dancing 75¢. Supper \$1 per couple.

1/16/69:- The John Sedgewick Encampment of the G.A.R. give a grand ball at Cheshire Hall this (Friday) evening. Music by the Keene Quadrille Band. Tickets to hall

\$1.50. Dancing to commence at 8 o'clock. Supper at the Cheshire House. All who go will doubtless enjoy a good time.

2/12/69:- The "Old Liners" of Swansey held their annual festival on Friday last. They departed from their usual custom this year so far as to form a grand sleigh ride and bring their sons and daughters up to the American House in Keene where they had a nice supper and dance, joined by some of their friends here. The "Old Line" is one of the peculiar institutions that nobody wishes to abolish, founded on the old-fashioned custom of sociality between families and neighborhoods, and the rendering of assistance to one another, in cases of illness.



2/27/69:- Swansey:- There will be a Masquerade Ball at the Town Hall, Wednesday eve. March 3d with a general invitation extended. Tickets for dancing \$1.50. to supper \$1 per couple.

Marlboro:- There will be a "March Meeting Ball" at Thatcher's Hall, on Tuesday evening, March 9, to which the public are invited. Tickets to Hall \$2, to Supper \$1 per couple.

Advertisement: Dancing! The Dancing School at Westmoreland, will close on Tuesday Eve. March 2, 1869. All are invited. Music, Cheshire County Band, 4 pieces. W. W. Ball, Teacher. Hours of dancing 7 till 3 O'clock. Tickets to Hall \$2.00.

2/8/70:- A Grand Fire Department Ball will be given on the 22d of February, under the auspices of the Neptune and Niagara Engine and the Hook and Ladder Companies. It will be at Cheshire Hall. Music, Gates' full band, of Fitchburg. The public are invited.

West Swanzy:- The ladies of the Universalist Society give their annual Entertainment next Thursday evening in Stratton's Mill. There are to be Dramatic Plays, Singing and Tableaux and afterward Dancing.

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Walpole:- The young people at Mr. Benjamin E. Websters were agreeably surprised last Tuesday evening by some forty couples from the village and Hill. The "Hotel" was soon in order, and after some little delay dancing commenced, which held out until the small hours of morn. A bountiful supper was provided by Mrs. Webster, who it seems, knows well how to play the part of Hostess. The party passed off most pleasantly, and was a perfect success. The surprise was complete especially to the younger portion of Mr. W's family.

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Local News. 2/26/70:- The Massachusetts Shooting Club invited their friends and acquaintances to a social gathering at the American House on Thursday evening. The party met early in the evening, numbering forty-two couples, and a more select and congenial company have rarely met in Keene. All seemed to enjoy themselves. The entertainments of the evening were social games, chit-chat, promenades, shooting and dancing, and not the least was the excellent supper served up by "mine host" Mr. F.A. Gilson. The hall was tastefully decorated and good music furnished by the Keene Quadrille Band.

The festival and dance held in Surry on the evening of the 16th inst. proved very pleasant and satisfactory to all who attended. Peculiarly the affair was a success, the net proceeds being \$164.



Local News 3/18/71:- A social party and dance, tendered to J.R. Colby, the popular leader of "Colby's Band" by the Keene Fire Department, will come off at the Town Hall in Keene on Friday evening of next week. The public are invited. A good time is certain, and a large attendance is expected.

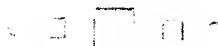
Winchester 4/1/71 :- The last dance of the season under the auspices of Mr. W.W. Ball, with his excellent band, is to be held at the new Town Hall next Wednesday evening.



Local Affairs 2/10/72 :- Grand Army Ball. John Seagewick Encampment, Post No. 4, G.A.R. will give their fourth annual ball at Cheshire Hall on the evening of Washington's birthday, Feb. 22. The Post has recently been reorganized, and the members will undoubtedly provide a first-class entertainment on this occasion. The Keene Quadrille Band will furnish music.



Local Affairs 12/14/72:- The second annual masquerade ball will take place in Cheshire Hall on the evening of Friday next week, Dec. 20. Subscribers can now obtain their tickets. The public will be admitted to the gallery at 50 cents.



Local Affairs 1/4/73:- The next assembly at Cheshire Hall, will be postponed until Friday evening, January 10th on account of the illness of Mrs. Sherman.

Marlow 1/11/73:- The Ladies of the Universalist Society hold their Festival next Wednesday evening, Jan. 15, at F.W. Baker's Hall. Useful and fancy articles and Refreshments will be sold, and the Festival will conclude with dancing.



Local Affairs 3/29/73:- Beaver Brook Lodge celebrated its 22d anniversary by a supper and dance at Colony's Hall, on the evening of the 19th. About one hundred couples present enjoyed an excellent entertainment. The supper was furnished by O.A. Pike and the music by the Peterboro Quadrille Band.

III O III

Chesterfield Factory 1/22/73:- A Grand ball is to come off at Factory Village, Thanksgiving evening, Nov. 27. Music by W.W. Ball's Band, 5 pieces.

III O III

Hinsdale 12/6/73:- A very civil dance came off the night before Thanksgiving in American Hall. Thirty-two couples took supper at Thayers and everything passed off in good order.

III O III

Marlow 12/27/73:- The ladies connected with the Universalist Society in Marlow, will hold their annual festival at F.W. Baker Hall on Thursday evening, January 4th. Fancy and useful articles and refreshments will be offered for sale. After the festival there will be a dance.

III O III

Winchester 3/14/74:- The last evening of the dancing assemblies at Winchester, will be on Thursday evening, March 19th.

III O III

Fitzwilliam:- Cheshire Co. Quadrille Band furnished music for a dance at the Town Hall last evening. Owing to the unfavorable weather, but a small party was in attendance.

III O III

Marlboro:- Marlborough Quadrille Band has a dance Friday night.



Troy 3/23/78:- The Grand ball by the citizens on Tuesday eve. 19th inst. was a success for this place. Thirty-six couples were present, 8 couples from Winchendon, and we owe them many thanks. Everything passed off quietly, and all say they had a splendid time. We hope next season to see them all together again, with others from our adjoining towns who failed to put in an appearance this time, and we are confident that all who have or may come to our good times here, when Curtis & White's Orchestra is present, cannot fail to enjoy all there is in dancing.

Marlboro:- A number from this place attended the Universalist levee and ball at Keene, Thursday night last. All were well pleased with it.

((~))

Fitzwilliam 8/17/78:- The ladies connected with the Orthodox society held a levee, Wednesday evening, which netted them about seventy-five dollars.

Advertisement 1/28/82:- Prof. W.W. Ball's Dancing Class will commence another half term of six evenings, at Liberty Hall, Saturday Evening, January 28. Single tickets for course, \$1 or \$2 per couple. Single tickets per evening 25 cents or 50 cents per couple. The course will be properly conducted. Hours from 7 till 10 o'clock. Mr. Ball will meet those wishing to learn Waltz, Schottische, Polka and Figures, at 6 o'clock, on first three evenings of assemblies, 50¢ each extra. Music - violin and piano. W.W. Ball, Teacher and Prompter.



She had an hour-glass figure - but time stood still in the wrong places.

Of course there are bigger things than money. For example, bills.

SOME THINGS I



COULD DO WITHOUT

All TV talk shows, the metric system, most things made of plastic, half of Congress, all clergymen who give sermons longer than a half hour, modern architecture, golf on TV, nine out of ten government regulations, instant potatoes, frozen dinners.

Stores that you can't get out of without buying something, clerks who tell you to "have a good day", any basketball player over seven feet tall, any football player weighing over 250, politicians who turn up on streetcorners two weeks before elections.

William Buckley, Ralph Nader, Howard Cosell, all baseball players paid more than the President of the United States, instant pizzas, airlines that say half the run is getting there, all physicians who can't write legibly.

SOME THINGS I WISH



WOULD RETURN

Doctors who make house calls, the old math, three percent inflation, brick streets, Stulebakers, anything made of metal instead of plastic, five-and-dime stores, trolley cars, fountain pens and inkwells, slow-food roadside restaurants, player pianos, kids who dress up for school and walk places.

Weather reports that tell us what will happen not why, neighborhood butcher shops, running boards, home-

made bread and ice cream, movies with cartoons and selected shorts, movies that are interesting and without moral messages.

Passenger trains with a conductor who shouts "all aboard", the smells of a country store, the sound of winter sleighbells, cold remedies like mustard plasters and chicken soup, hard work, radio programs with dialog, toys without batteries, toys that work, junk collectors, gypsies, hoboes, anything made in the U.S.A. Food that doesn't cause cancer, politicians who tell the truth.

STRANGE THINGS

PEOPLE BELIEVE



That the howling of dogs portends a death.

That a man has one rib less than a woman.

That a bay leaf is a preservative against thunder.

That to kill a spider is bad luck.

That a dead man weighs more than when he was alive.

That the tenth wave at sea is the greatest and most dangerous.

That spitballs are detected by candles burning with a bluish light.

That a coffin nail on the threshold of a chamber keeps away phantoms.

That when one of a family dies the bees will undergo some calamity if not informed of the death.

That if it rains on St. Swithin's day it will rain more or less for 40 succeeding days.

That the seventh son of a seventh son is a genius.



Told in the hills

Every town in northern New England had folks who were known for their story telling ability. By story telling we do not mean liars, but recounters of interesting events that they remembered from years past. Men and women qualified for the post. The men mostly held forth on the store steps or summer evenings and around the stove on stormy winter days; the ladies told their tales at sewing circles, quilting bees and the like. A few of the stories were really 'tall tales' and you were supposed to know the difference between one of the yarns and the truth. Ninety-nine percent of the stories were the truth. They were the keepers of folklore.

Vermont quotation?

When I works, I works easy.
 When I sits, I sits loose.
 And when I worries, I sleeps;

In the old days backsliders who failed to show up at "meetin'" trod a rougher road than they do today. One of the unrepentant ones, a man named Hawkins, liked to sleep late on Sunday morning, but saw no reason to honor the day in any other way, set his boy to splitting wood in the back yard one Sabbath morning just as most of the neighbors were going by on their way to church. When the boy complained that folks were "gawkin" at him his father said comfortingly, "Oh well, don't forget

that the Lord sees you too." "That's so," replied the worried youth, as he inched nearer to the house, "But you can be dang sure He won't go yelpin' all over town about it!"

III O III

From Ludlow comes this: Some years ago, Johnny borrowed his father's car. He was going fast on a curve; the road kept going, but he and the car did not, and over the bank the pair went with a crash. The car was demolished, but not Johnny. He went to a nearby house and telephones his father. The neighbors assembled, knowing that Johnny's father might have something to say when he arrived. When he came, he examined the car, looked over his lad, and asked: "Where were you going?" The boy told him. "What were you going for?" "To get a hair cut." The old man thought a moment: "That's a helluva note! You take a \$3000 car to drive 25 miles to get a 25 cent haircut for a 10 cent head!"

III O III

Sugarhouse stories are legion, many of them a bit too rough for polite consumption, but now and then one reflects the fun, chuckles, and mischief that circulate around sugarhouses and sugaring time. O when "any joke goes". Here is one from Craftsbury Common.

They had on the Waldo Middleton farm a favorite dog, Shirley, who loved maple sugar, especially the "sugar-on-snow" variety. But she was bright and hard to fool. She had learned that she could not handle too large a lump of sugar in a genteel manner.

On one occasion, she was begging for a lump, and Martin, one of the Middleton boys, obligingly gave her a chunk. She tried to "down it," then dropped it on the floor as too much of an undertaking for polite circles. Martin picked it up and put it on the edge of his pan - he was eating syrup on snow at the time.

The hired man came in and sat down for a share. Noting the chunk on the edge of the pan, before Martin could warn him, he downed the chunk easily as Shirley

could not.

Martin watched the hired man solemnly, and finally asked: "Are you going to keep it down?"

"Why sure!" the hired man said. "Why not?"

"Well," Martin said mildly, "I didn't know whether you could or not. Shirley couldn't."

<<->>

This story is from Nelson and has to do with the second church built there. On this occasion Joe Sims drove up to the church to the stepping-stone for his family to alight. He noticed an old-timer standing there, shaking his head, wringing his hands, and murmuring to himself; so Joe said to him:

"What seems to be bothering you, friend?"

"Wellll!" was the reply, "the Devil's botherin'me!"

"That's strange," Jim said with some sympathy. "He never bothers me."

The old-timer looked up with some surprise, then nodded his head sadly. "No-o-o? Wel-l-l, the Devil had a good reason. He don't ever bother anyone He's sure of!"



A summer resident of one of our old farms made over for a vacation home was telephoning to Dan and Whit's store a list of goods to be ready for her to pick up later in the day. At about item ten, having heard nothing but silence on the store end of the line, she inquired, "Mr. Hicks, are you still there?" "Yap," replied Whit, "I write quiet."

A Nantucket boat was once reported capsized with "the loss of three souls and a New Bedford Man."



FOLK REMEDIES

Remember when a nasty cold meant plenty of home-made chicken soup? Sometimes your mother's own brand of medicine was all you needed to get well. Sure, some of it was hokum. But lots of it, even today, makes plain good sense.

Here are a few tried-and-true home remedies - handy health tips, old and new. Nothing will ever replace your family physician, and these "cures" are not intended to do that.

For a sore throat, mix $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of ordinary table salt with 1 glass of warm water and gargle. This is an old one, but works as well as any store-bought mouthwash.

Salt water works on a stuffy nose too. Dispense with a dropper or spray bottle.

Everybody's got a cure for hiccups, but did you ever try: Eating 1 teaspoon of granulated sugar without water? It works!

Mother was right in prescribing warm milk for insomnia. The protein in milk does it, so it doesn't have to be warm.

Instant relief from burns - Soak the burned area in ice water or apply ice or ice pack immediately and keep it on for at least 15 minutes. If the burn appears to be more than something superficial, better check

with your doctor.

What cold does for burns, heat does for itching. Application of hot water for a brief time can provide instantaneous relieve of itching for up to 3 hours.

For painful arches and stiff wrists, ankles and toes, fill one bucket or basin with moderately hot water, another with moderately cold water. Soak affected areas in the hot water for 4 minutes, then in cold for one, then hot again. Alternate for 30 minutes, always beginning and ending with the hot soak.

As good as some of them are, home remedies should be reserved for minor ailments of short duration. If symptoms don't improve after a reasonable time, consult your phusician.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The spring tonics like "Scott's Emulsion" and "Swamp Root?"

When candy bars were a nickle apiece? When a nickle was enough to purchase a copy of Colliers or The Saturday Evening Post? Or a lime phosphate or an ice cream cone. a skate key, subway ride, a package of Neccos, a box of Unedas, a card of safety pins, a spool of thread or a quarter-of-a-mile ride in a taxi?

When an ide pick was a common household utensil? Boy Scout knives? Oilcloth on the kitchen table? Zoot suits? Trolley cars? Telephone operators? Model T Fords or Stanley Steamers?

Indian clubs and/or dumb-bells? V-Mail, Rosie the Riveter or Tuesday nights with Uncle Miltie? When life was simple, or at least no body's damned business?

Remember? Really it isn't so long ago!





WHAT THEY SAY

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

He pries up the sun with a crowbar.
 He don't know beans when the bag's untied.
 The wind blew straight up and down.
 So crooked he can't lay straight in bed.

He's too big for his britches.
 Faster'n a cat lappin' chain lightnin'.
 Lookin' for salt pork and sundown.
 Save your wind to cool yer porridge.

Comb your hair after dark
 And comb the sorrow into your heart.

If it rains in a grave somebody in the family will die
 in a year.
 Worked in a peck basket all day and set on the rim when
 night came.

He's runnin' round from pillar to post.
 It's only a stone's throw from here.
 About as fast as you could kick a barrel.
 One log never burns.
 Cut your coat according to the cloth.

Lazy fobks work best
 When the sun is in the weat.

VERMONT

FOLKLORE



When a person had several things under his supervision, he was "as busy as an old hen with a brood of ducklings at a millpond." Also; A person having had a light lunch or been served a very small portion at a meal would remark that it was enough "to stay his stomach" until he could get more.

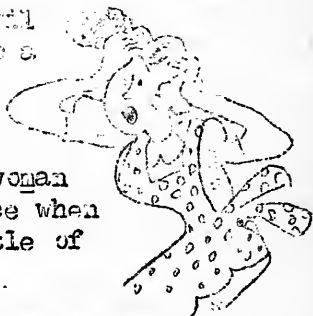
Ernie Strong didn't like Mrs. W. who was altogether too penurious for him. One day he was heard to state that her soul would rattle around in a mustard seed like a bean in a bass drum.

"He who thinks by the inch and talks by the yard gets moved by the foot."

Jerry was leaving after a visit with relatives. As he started up his horse, he called, "Well, the Lord be with you, I can't always."

An old lady used to tell me that one of the things they said at school in her day were Indicative mode, present tense, lickety-larrup over the fence.

Many years ago in a small Vermont village an exacting customer came into a small department store looking for an unusual gift for a friend. She looked at this and that, but nothing was what she wanted. The saleswoman was about at the end of her patience when she sighted an elegant looking bottle of bath salts.



"These are something new on the market"

she explained sweetly, "and make a most acceptable gift."

The lady took the bottle and read the label.

"Indeed, I'll not give my friend such a gift!" she exclaimed, in disgust. "Why, I've tried three times to take the horrible things myself!"

A complaining person who speaks unceasingly at great length about his infirmities usually does so to gain attention. The grandmother of one of our local citizens dismissed the whole situation with tale: "A squeaking door hangs long on the hinges."

A few days ago I overheard a candidate for the legislature going over, with his campaign manager, a list of his prospective supporters.

"Strike this man off your list," said the manager, indicating a name.

"But he promised me his vote," replied the candidate.

"You can't believe a word he says," continued the manager, and concluded, "If I knew positively that he hadn't had anything to eat for two whole weeks and he told me he was hungry I wouldn't believe him."

We kids were never permitted to go barefoot in the summer until we'd seen a yellow butterfly. White ones didn't count.

There are people who, like new songs, are in vogue only for a time.

Fact is the art of treating people as though they knew what they were talking about.

NEW ENGLAND KITCHEN LORE



Do you remember the clove-apple on grandmother's parlor whatnot long ago? Call it a "pomander" today, but it still remains an apple solidly embedded with cloves and guaranteed to last half a century.

Some families used to make boiled cider applesauce by the barrel, keeping it in a cold place and allowing it to freeze and cutting out a slice as needed.

In the olden days maple sugar was about the consistency and color of brown sugar today and was the only sugar used by the early settlers.

Today, thirty percent of this country's maple crop comes from Vermont. There is a tendency for maple sugar to become stronger in flavor the farther north the region in which the trees grow. Why, no one can say. But Vermont is happily located so that its syrup carries a distinctive flavor that is neither too strong nor too flat. The first run of syrup is generally considered the finest of the crop. Vermonters believe in treating the "home folks" before giving the "furriners" a taste. Of course, some goes to Cousin Fattie who moved to Wisconsin and "can't get the right kind of syrup from any place but home." When the first settlers arrived they learned the art of "sugarin'" from the Indians. In fact maple sugar was the only sugar they knew, cane sugar being a luxury beyond their simple means.

Rocelia asked her husband, Jim, to watch the cake she had put in the oven and take it out when it was done. When she came home two hours later, she found the cake burned to a crisp. Commenting on it later, to one of her neighbors she remarked, "It's terrible what these men do. After all, all Jim had to do was set and remember!"

Generations ago when the early settlers of New England, due to the rigors of the climate and the hardships of life, required fortifying and stimulating beverages, rum was the most popular and beneficial drink. In the eighteenth century the rum industry was well established in New England and a flourishing business was carried on between the West Indies and the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The rum trade played an important part in the economic and social life of Early New England. Molasses imported from the West Indies was converted into rum in the many New England distilleries not only for local consumption but for the large exports of the beverage.

FAMILY RECCEPTS

SWEET & SOUR POT ROAST

(Venison or beef may be used)

6 lbs. meat	2 Tbsp. lemon
2 large onions sliced	or vinegar
1 clove minced garlic	1 Tbsp. brown
3/4 water or stock	sugar
2 bay leaves	3 Tbsp ket-
1/2 cup raisins	Salt
	chup

Brown meat in hot fat on all sides, using heavy pan. Add onions & garlic. Cook until brown. Add water & bay leaves. Cover. Simmer 1 hour. Add other ingredients. Cook 1/2 hour covered



ROAST BEEF

(try cooking an inexpensive cut of beef this way)

Lay a sheet of heavy foil in baking pan and put 4 lb. roast on it. Cover with 1 envelope onion soup (no liquid added) and cover that with 1 can of undiluted mushroom soup. Wrap carefully and roast 4 hours in 350 oven. The gravy is all made and the roast is all perfectly seasoned.

BREAD PUDDING

3 beaten eggs	1 tsp. vanilla
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. nutmeg
$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins
2 cups milk	4-5 slices bread, cubed

Combine ingredients. Pour into greased baking dish and bake in pan of hot water in moderate oven 350 until firm - about 50 minutes. Serve warm with lemon sauce.

BANANA CUSTARD PIE

3 eggs	2 bananas
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar	1 tsp. lemon juice
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup coconut
$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. nutmeg	pastry
$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups milk	

Beat eggs slightly and add sugar, salt, nutmeg and milk. Put bananas through sieve and add to custard mixture. Add lemon juice. Pour into unbaked pie shell, sprinkle with coconut. Bake 10 minutes at 425 and about 35 minutes at 350 - until firm.

If at first you do succeed, try to hide your astonishment.

Today's expert is a person telling us what yesterday's expert did wrong.

WIFE SAVERS

Add sliced frankfurters and chopped celery to your potato salad for a hearty taste.

For a tasty canape, try stuffing celery stalks with pimento cheese.

Improve the flavor of almost any meat sandwich by adding a layer of thin slices of dill pickle.

If you like very tangy flavor in your cheese sauce, add both cayenne pepper and Worcestershire sauce.

Give a new taste to mashed potatoes by mixing melted butter with orange juice and adding to potatoes.

Add zest to Hollandaise sauce with a few dashes of almond extract.

Flavor of cutlets will be greatly improved if the bread crumbs in which they are rolled are first mixed with salt, pepper and savory herbs.

For an extra treat toss cooked egg noodles with butter and finely-chopped parsley or olives into a meat stew.

Sweet pickle slices make a tasty addition to a melted cheese sandwich.

For a tasty and unusual omelet or scrambled egg dish, add tuna - drained and flaked - to the egg mix.

When roasting chicken, baste frequently with pineapple juice for an exotic flavor.

Veal chops, normally lean, will be tastier if coated with a thin layer of olive oil before broiling.



Add just a drop of syrup from maraschino cherries to mayonnaise to give exciting color to salad.

Next time, pan fry thinly-sliced raw sweet potatoes in hot oil.

Scoop out a baked potato, fill with chili-concarne, top with your favorite cheese and pop into the oven for a few minutes.

Blend canned salmon or tuna into a stuffed baked potato.

For a delicious spread, combine an old English cheese, tuna fish and mayonnaise.

In your next banana fritters, try adding a touch of peanut butter.

Did you know that the ink for stamping labels on meat is made from the skin of dark grapes, which makes it edible?

Delmonico's became the best known and most expensive restaurant of its time - but its original menu, in 1834 offered a full course dinner for 12 cents and a la carte beefsteak was 4cents!

EXIT

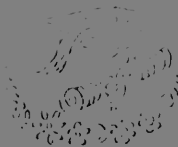
Nostalgia is recalling the fun without reliving the pain.

Can you remember when you wouldn't think of getting dressed up without wearing a stickpin in your tie?

A sweater is a garment a child wears when his mother feels chilly.

Waste not, want not. But you won't be able to get into your attic.

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Died: May 1, 1981 - Jim Nelson

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